



USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Hogs and Pigs Inventory
Egg Production

November Milk Production Up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from November 2003. October revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from October 2003. The October revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 9 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,526 pounds for November, 9 pounds above November 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 44,000 head more than November 2003, but unchanged from October 2004.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above December 1, 2003 and 4 percent above December 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.74 million, 10 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. This is the lowest placements for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.64 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 590,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 326,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 270,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.63 million, 6 percent above 2003 but 6 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 108,000 during November, 11 percent above 2003 and 20 percent above 2002.

November Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2004. Red meat production was down 7 percent from the previous month, but 12 percent above the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,500 head, which is 200 head above a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,132 pounds, was down 1 pound from 2003. During November there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 250 pounds, increased 2 pounds from 2003. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, is unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from last

year to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in November, up 7 percent from the 3.53 billion pounds produced in November 2003.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, up 4 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,271 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.8 million pounds, 9 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 13 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was 14 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, a new monthly record, and was up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.96 million head, 4 percent above November 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from November 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,100 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 2 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2004 commercial red meat production was 41.5 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.2 million cwt or 83 percent of 2004 production on December 1, 2004, compared with 2.7 million cwt or 77 percent held in 2003. Potato production totalled 3,876,000 cwt in 2004 and 3,528,000 cwt in 2003.

The 15 major potato States held 272 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 67 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 132 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 3 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.8 million cwt, is up 12 percent from last year and 8 percent above the same date in 2002.

Processors used 70.7 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 13.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 6 percent from last year and 15 percent below the same date in 2002.

Western States held 184 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 3 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago.

Production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 410 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last month but virtually unchanged from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.03 million acres, is up less than 1 percent from November but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 399 cwt per acre, 14 cwt above last month and 23 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 7 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Western States production is forecast at 281 million cwt, virtually unchanged from the November forecast but up 3 percent from last year for comparable States. Acreage harvested, at 642,200 acres, decreased 3 percent from last year, but the average yield of 437 cwt per acre is up 23 cwt from 2003. Record high yields in Idaho increased production 7 percent from the previous year. Favorable growing conditions during the season contributed to the good size and quality of the tubers. Production in Washington went up 1 percent from last year. Colorado's production decreased 2 percent as more acres were abandoned due to higher disease rates and water management issues. Oregon growers expect to harvest 19.8 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year. This decrease is due to a 13 percent reduction in harvested acres but yields are forecast at 41 cwt above last season. California's production

is up 10 percent from last year. Ideal weather and excellent soil conditions increased yields 85 cwt from 2003 to 510 cwt per acre, more than offsetting the decrease in harvested acres.

Central States production is forecast at 101 million cwt, up 1 percent from the November forecast but down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Harvested area, estimated at 289,600 acres, is up 1 percent from November but 11 percent below a year ago. Average yields, at 349 cwt per acre, are up 2 cwt from last month and 14 cwt above a year ago. Production in Michigan is 9 percent below 2003 and Minnesota's production is down 15 percent from last year. A record high yield of 430 cwt per acre in Minnesota does not make up for the 24 percent decrease in harvested acres. Due to very wet spring conditions producers planted less potato acreage and reported higher rates of abandonment in Minnesota and Michigan. North Dakota growers expect a record high yield of 265 cwt per acre, 20 cwt above the previous record set in 2003.

Eastern States production is forecast at 27.9 million cwt, up 2 percent from the November forecast and up less than 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest totaled 95,200 acres, up 1 percent from last month but 8 percent below last year. Average yield, at 293 cwt per acre, is up 4 cwt from November and 23 cwt above last season.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2003-2004 1/

STATE	2003 CROP			2004 CROP		
	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2003	% of Production	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2004	% of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	3,528	2,700	77	3,876	3,200	83
CO	23,652	17,500	74	23,148	17,200	74
ID	123,180	86,000	70	131,970	93,500	71
ME	17,030	13,500	79	19,220	15,000	78
MI	15,015	9,200	61	13,650	8,600	63
MN	22,330	14,000	63	18,920	13,000	69
MT	3,339	3,100	93	3,551	3,400	96
NE	9,744	6,500	67	8,938	5,800	65
NY	6,510	2,700	41	5,184	2,900	56
ND	27,440	19,400	71	26,765	19,600	73
OH	1,097	300	27	1,080	200	19
OR	20,991	18,000	86	19,775	17,000	86
PA	3,375	1,900	56	2,530	1,200	47
WA	93,150	51,000	55	93,810	50,000	53
WI	32,800	22,100	67	30,710	21,000	68
15 States	403,181	267,900	66	403,127	271,600	67

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2004 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

Montana Hog Inventory Down 3 Percent from 2003, U.S. Inventory Up Slightly

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2004 was 165,000 head, 3 percent below a year ago. Breeding stock was down 6 percent from last December to 17,000 head. Market hog numbers decreased to 148,000 head, down 3 percent from last year.

There were 32,500 sows farrowed in Montana during the December 2003 through November 2004 season, down 12 percent from a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter increased slightly to 9.54 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 310,000 head, a 8 percent decrease from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004 was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004. U.S. Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2004 U.S. pig crop for the United States, at 25.6 million head, was up slightly from 2003 and up 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the

breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.96 for the September-November period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2004-February 2005 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in 2004, and 3 percent above 2003. Intended farrowings for March-May 2005, at 2.87 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2004, and down 1 percent from the same period in 2003.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 2002-2004

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	175	170	165	97	59,554	60,044	60,501	100
Breeding Hogs	20	18	17	94	6,058	6,009	5,969	99
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	51	50	48	96	19,485	19,778	19,636	99
60-119 lbs.	39	37	37	100	13,033	13,238	13,439	102
120-170 lbs.	34	35	33	94	10,875	11,109	11,286	102
180 lbs. & over	31	30	30	100	10,103	10,311	10,171	99
Total	155	152	148	97	53,496	54,434	54,531	100
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	36.0	37.0	32.5	88	11,492	11,428	11,446	100
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	328	338	310	92	101,678	101,491	102,305	101
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	9.11	9.14	9.54	104	8.85	8.88	8.94	101
1/ December previous year.								

November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.46 billion during November 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.42 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 980 million were broiler-type and 59 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2004 averaged 343 million, up 2 percent from a year

earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, up slightly from November 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2004, totaled 343 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per

day on December 1, 2004, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.98 billion eggs during November 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 321 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

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